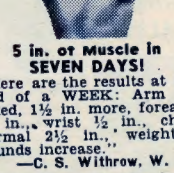
I Dare You To Read My Mail!

THEN YOU'D BE *CONVINCED* THAT I CAN MAKE *YOU* THE KIND OF REAL HE-MAN YOU'D LIKE TO BE!

My Secret Method Has Worked Wonders For Thousands of Other Fellows—Here's What I'll Prove It Can Do For You In Just 15 Minutes a Day—At Home!

"Dynamic Tension has Them All Beat"
"Say! I feel 100 per cent better already. After one week, I can see a difference in my chest and shoulder muscles. DYNAMIC-TENSION has 'em all beat a hundred ways!" —Lee Jones, Texas

"Gaining Friends' Health and Happiness!"
"Your course works wonders for me, I am gaining friends, health, happiness."
—Joseph Chrabasez, Mass.



5 in. of Muscle in SEVEN DAYS!
"Here are the results at the end of a WEEK: Arm relaxed, 1½ in. more, forearm ⅞ in., wrist ½ in., chest normal 2½ in., weight 4 pounds increase."
—C. S. Withrow, W. Va.

Big Chest Muscles in "Double-Quick" Time
"I am really surprised at the things accomplished in such a short time. The power with each arm has greatly increased — you know what that means—MUSCLES!"
—Harold Cox, Indiana

"Wonderful Progress"
"I recommend Charles Atlas for quick results. I am sending you this snapshot showing my wonderful progress." —W G., N. J.

"You Sure Know Your Stuff!"
"The course is a lot of fun. My chest muscles are really gaining in size. You sure know your stuff."
—C. R Williams, Cal.

Increases Chest 3½ Inches
"What a difference! Have put 3½ inches on my chest (normal) and 2½ inches expanded." —F. S., New York

Proud of his Muscles
"Just a note to tell you how proud I am of my beautiful Atlas medal — prouder, in that when I display it, I can also display my muscles for which the emblem stands."
—Jack Griggs, Tex.

"Feel Better, Stronger"
"I feel better, and stronger. My muscles are surely coming out fast. I see more improvement after 12 days than I expected in 30."
—James Parchman, Texas

Gains 29 Pounds
"Gained 29 lbs. When I started your course I weighed only 141. Now I weigh 170." —T. K., New York

Wonderful Results
"I have gained unusual physical development through your methods. Am getting wonderful results."
—R. F., South Africa

Charles Atlas

Awarded the title of "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" in an international contest

SILVER CUP GIVEN AWAY
This handsome cup, over a foot high, will be given to the pupil who makes the greatest physical improvement in the next 3 months.

I COULD fill page after page of this magazine with enthusiastic letters from fellows who traded in skinny, pepless bodies for real HE-MAN STRENGTH and VITALITY. But what you want to know is — "What can Atlas do for ME?"

Just give me 15 minutes a day of your spare time—right in the privacy of your own home. I'll show you RESULTS that you can *see, feel,* and *measure* with a tape. I don't care how young or old you are or what your physical condition may be. If you can raise your arm and flex it, I can add SOLID MUSCLE to your biceps—in double-quick time.

I can broaden your shoulders, strengthen your back, develop your whole muscular system INSIDE and OUTSIDE! I can add inches to your chest, give you a vise-like grip, make those legs of yours lithe and powerful. I can shoot new strength into your old backbone, exercise those inner organs, help you cram your body full of pep, vigor and red-blooded vitality!

ARE YOU
Skinny, Weak and run down?
Tired, Nervous?
Lacking in Confidence?
Suffering from bad breath?
Fat and Flabby?
WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT is told in my FREE BOOK

WHAT'S MY SECRET?

"DYNAMIC TENSION"! That's the ticket! The natural method that I myself developed to change my body from the scrawny skinny-chested weakling I was at 17 to my present superman physique! Thousands of other fellows are becoming marvelous physical specimens—my way. I give you no gadgets or contraptions. You simply utilize the DORMANT muscle-power in your own God-given body—watch it increase and multiply double-quick into real solid LIVE MUSCLE.

My method—*"Dynamic Tension"* will turn the trick for you. No theory—so easy! Spend only 15 minutes a day in your own home. And *you'll* be using the method which many great athletes use for keeping in condition — prize fighters, wrestlers, baseball and football players, etc.

FREE **Illustrated 32-page Book. Just Mail the Coupon.**

SEND NOW for my famous book, "Everlasting Health and Strength." (Over 3½ MILLION fellows have sent for it already). It contains 32 pages, packed from cover to cover with actual photographs and valuable advice. Shows what **"Dynamic Tension"** has done for others, answers many vital questions. Page by page it shows what I can do for YOU.

This book is a real prize for any fellow who wants a better build. Yet I'll send you a copy absolutely FREE. Just glancing through it may mean the turning point in your whole life! Rush the coupon to me personally: **CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 60 T , 115 East 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y.**

CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 60 T ,
115 East 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y.

Send me—absolutely FREE—a copy of your famous book, "Everlasting Health and Strength"—32 pages, crammed with photographs, answers to vital health questions, and valuable advice. I understand this book is mine to keep and sending for it does not obligate me in any way.

Name.....Age.....
(Please print or write plainly)

Address.....

City.....State.....

☐ If under 14 years, check here for Booklet A.

GIVEN! BOYS! GIRLS! LADIES! MEN!

WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!

GR-R-RRR!

JUDY and JIM DEFY SAVAGE GORILLA!

YOU KIDS DESERVE A MEDAL! WHERE DID YOU GET THAT "22" RIFLE AND THAT BOW AND ARROW?
WE EARNED THEM SELLING WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE!
WOW! I'M GONNA SELL SOME OF THAT SALVE TOO!

Wallets
Food Choppers
Carving Sets
Aluminum Ware
Blankets

Typewriters
Flashlights

Field Glasses
Wrist Watches,
Footballs

Archery Sets.
Swim Fins

Radios, Electric Record Players (sent postage paid). Mail coupon for order and catalog to start.

Pen & Pencil Sets

Clocks

Rangemaster

ACT NOW!

Swim Masks

WE TRUST YOU

Swim Fins

Axe & Knife Sets

Telescopes

Pocket Watches

Pocket Watches Bibles

Footballs

LOOK! LIVE PONY!

Yessiree, a real, live Pony for your very own. Wrist Watches, Clocks – Mail coupon for SALVE and pictures to get started now!

Flashlights

Boys-girls Bicycles

Pearls

Ukuleles

Electric Deep Fryer

Wrist Watches

BE FIRST

Candid Cameras with Carrying Cases

Wagons

SOLD BY AGENTS AND MORE STORES EVERYWHERE

Guaranteed by Good Housekeeping

Dolls

Wilson Chem. Co. Dept. 90-148 Tyrone, Pa.

WE ARE RELIABLE!

DON'T DELAY!

22 Calibre Rifles, 1000-Shot Daisy Air Rifles

LET'S GO!

MAIL COUPON

ACT NOW!

BIG CATALOG!

Alarm Clocks, Pen and Pencil Sets, Bibles, Billfolds, Telescopes, Roller Skates, Blankets, Aluminum Ware, Record Players, Movie Machines (sent postage paid). Rush coupon to start

WE TRUST YOU

OUR 60TH YEAR

MAIL NOW!

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. 90-148 Tyrone, Pa. Date_____

Gentlemen:- Please send me on trial 14 colorful art pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 35c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

NAME _____ AGE _____

ST. _____ R. D. _____ BOX _____

TOWN _____ ZONE NO. _____ STATE _____

PRINT LAST NAME HERE

Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today

ATLAS
BLACK KNIGHT
THE GREATEST KNIGHT OF THEM ALL!
JULY
BLACK KNIGHT
10¢
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THRILLS FROM KING ARTHUR AND HIS KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE!
IN THIS GREAT ISSUE:
BLACK KNIGHT DEFIES THE "SIEGE OF CAMELOT!"
CAN THE BLACK KNIGHT SURVIVE THE "TOURNAMENT OF DOOM!"

GAIN WEIGHT
IN 7 DAYS OR DON'T PAY!

Amazing New Easy Way Quickly Puts Appealing Pounds and Inches on Your SKINNY Body, Chest, Arms, Legs!

NOT A MEDICINE! NOT JUST VITAMINS! BUT A BRAND NEW CONCENTRATED FOOD WITH EASY TO DIGEST WONDER CALORIES

You, too, can start putting weight on the first day with the POUNDS PLUS plan! Thousands now gain who never thought they could with this amazing discovery of medical science. You gain 2, 4, as much as 7 pounds in a week, until you reach the weight that most becomes you . . . so quickly, it's a cinch. Scrawny figures gain pounds and inches of firm, attractive flesh on body, chest, arms, legs, thighs, ankles. Cheeks and neck fill out . . . wherever you need it.

POUNDS PLUS is entirely safe, no drugs, no fish oils . . . is not merely vitamins . . . Instead it's a delicious pleasant-tasting tablet jam-packed with wonder calories . . . a secret new concentrated food formula that also aids digestion, starts putting weight on the very first day. POUNDS PLUS plan also stimulates the appetite, supplies quick pep and energy, the magic glow of health . . . for men, women, children, convalescents. Don't be skinny, underweight or pepless. Mail the coupon today!

Easy Weight Gains of 7 Pounds in 7 Days Reported

FAMILY DOCTORS—
Your recommendation is welcome.
Write for professional samples.

SEND NO MONEY
TEST AT OUR RISK

MAIL THIS NO-RISK COUPON TODAY!

Pounds Plus Company, Dept. 168 Box 820, New York 17, N. Y.

Send one Package of POUNDS PLUS. I'll pay $2.98 plus C.O.D. postage on arrival on guarantee that if I am not satisfied with weight gained, I may return the empty package for a full refund. (Cash orders mailed postage prepaid.)

☐ Put X here if you want 3 for $6.00.
☐ I enclose payment. You stand charges.
☐ Send C.O.D., I will pay postal charges.

NAME_____ ADDRESS_____ CITY_____ STATE_____

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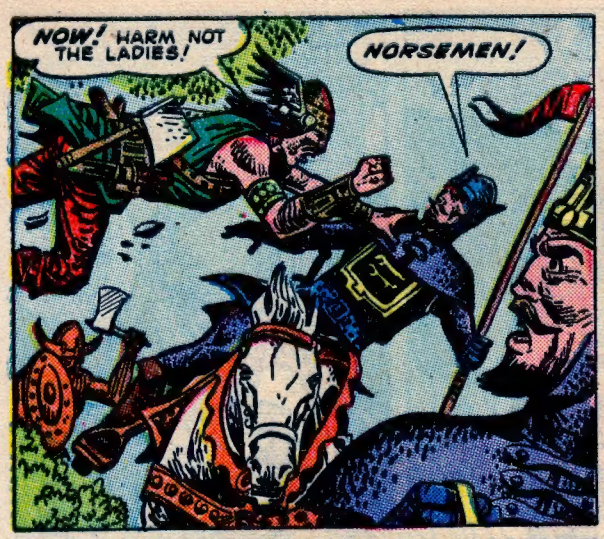
Black Knight
FROM OUT OF THE NORTH THEY HAD COME, STEALING UPON ENGLAND'S SHORES IN THE NIGHT... NORSEMEN FROM THE ICY LANDS, COME TO PILLAGE AND RAID! MIGHTY MEN THESE... FIGHTING MEN, FIT EVEN TO TRY THE METTLE OF KING ARTHUR'S SWORD, EXCALIBUR... OR THE EBONY BLADE OF THE BLACK KNIGHT!
Joe Maneely

BATTLE WAS JOY TO THESE RAIDERS, AND THEY TUMBLED THE KING'S GUARDS LIKE TENPINS...
HO, 'TIS GOOD FIGHTING! THE ENGLISH ARE VALIANT WARRIORS!
BUT THEY ARE TOO FEW! THE TOWN IS OURS!
THEY FED BOISTEROUSLY, AS WAS THEIR HABIT, IN THE CAPTURED TOWN, TOASTING THEIR LEADER IN HUGE TANKARDS!
TO OUR LEADER, LEIF THE LUCKY, PRINCE OF THE NORTH!
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE TOWN?
LEAVE IT! WE MOVE ON! YOU FORGET THAT THIS RAID HAS A SPECIAL MEANING FOR ME!
I FOLLOW THE CUSTOM OF MY FATHERS... TO FIND A BRIDE TO CARRY HOME TO OUR ANCESTRAL HALLS! HERE IN ENGLAND I SHALL FIND A MAIDEN FAIR TO SIT BESIDE ME AS PRINCESS IN MY CASTLE AT SKOR!
NOT FAR FROM THE COAST, ANOTHER COMPANY MAKES ITS LEISURELY WAY! THE KING'S WARD, LADY ROSAMUND, HAS LEFT CAMELOT CASTLE FAR BEHIND, AS SHE LEARNS THE ART OF FALCONRY...
THE BIRD IS HOODED UNTIL READY FOR FLIGHT, MY LADY!
HOW PROUD AND FIERCE HE IS, EVEN THOUGH BLINDED BY THE HOOD! TAKE A LESSON FROM THIS BIRD, SIR PERCY!
NAY, FAIR LADY, FIERCENESS IN ANY FORM MAKES ME SHUDDER! I AM NO FIGHTING MAN! I PITY HIM HIS HOOD THAT DENIES HIM THE SIGHT OF YOUR BEAUTY!
YOU TURN A PHRASE WELL, SIR! A PITY YOU SHRINK FROM HANDLING LANCE OR SWORD WITH EQUAL DEXTERITY!
THE SUN WAS WARM UPON THEM, BUT FROM THE TREES BOUNDING THE TRAIL, ICE-BLUE EYES WATCHED THEIR PROGRESS...
BY THE SWORD OF ODIN, THIS MAID IS FAIR! SHE SHALL BE MY BRIDE! MAKE READY!
WHAT CARRY YOU IN THE BASKETS ON YON POOR BLACK BEAST? ARMOR? ARMS?
NAY! THE THOUGHT OF ARMS MAKES ME ILL! 'TIS SWEETS AND FANCIES FOR THE LADIES!



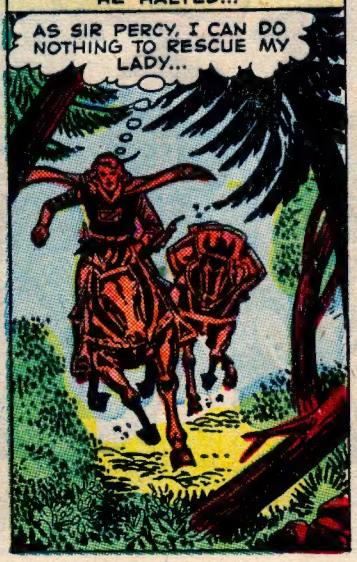
SIR PERCY SPRANG TO HIS FEET AMIDST THE DUST OF CONFLICT. THE LANCE OF THE KING'S FALCONER BALANCED EASILY IN HIS HAND! HIS EYES WERE BLAZING, AND IN THAT MOMENT, HE COULD NOT BE RECOGNIZED AS SIR PERCY, THE WEAKLING DANDY OF ARTHUR'S COURT!

NO! I MUST NOT FIGHT! AS PERCY, I MUST ALWAYS MASQUERADE AS A COWARDLY FOP, ELSE MY DISGUISE IS UNDONE AND MY LIEGE, KING ARTHUR, WILL BE AT THE MERCY OF HIS ENEMIES!

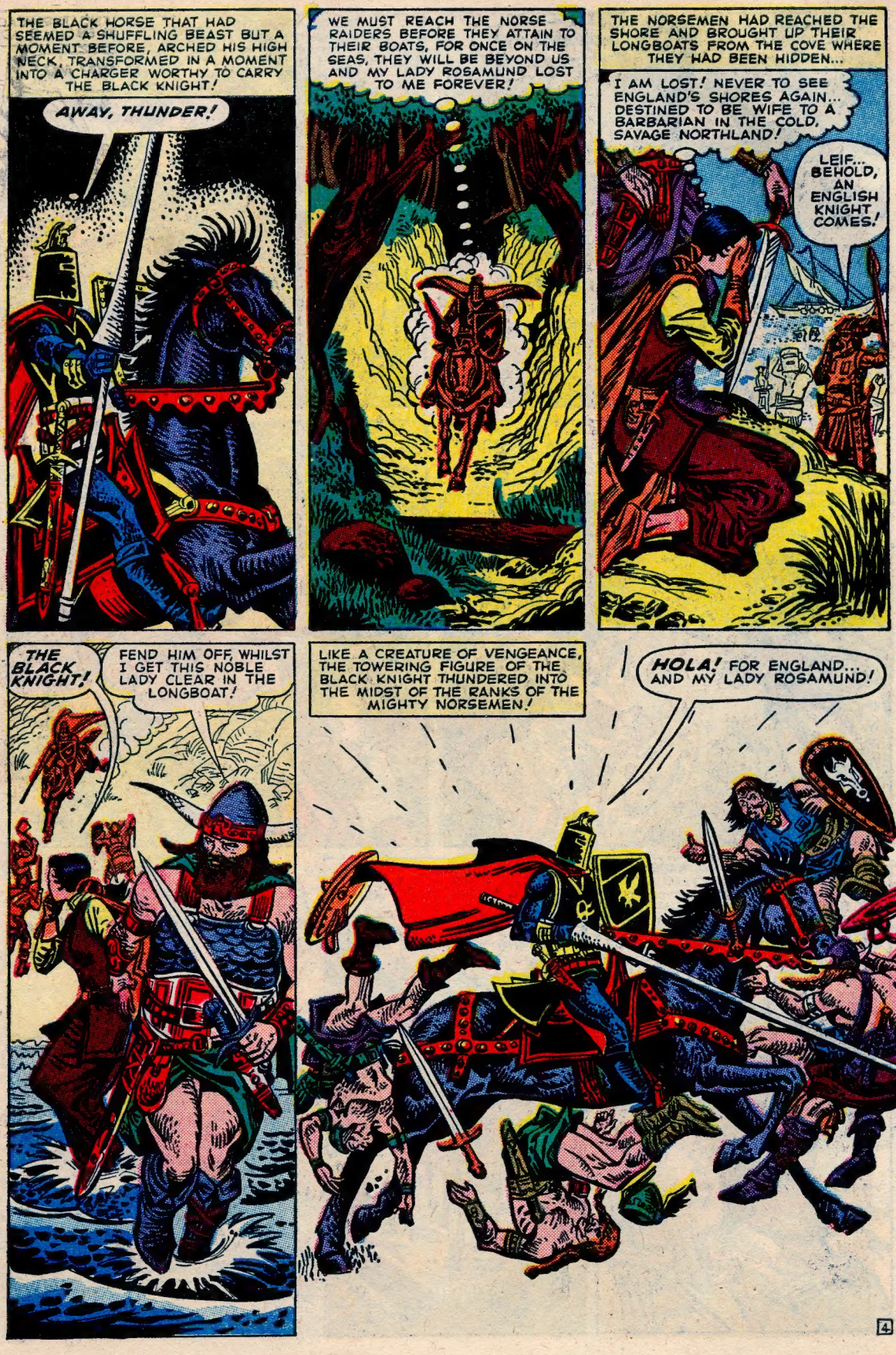
THEN HE LEAPED TO THE BACK OF THE BLACK HORSE AND FLED AWAY!

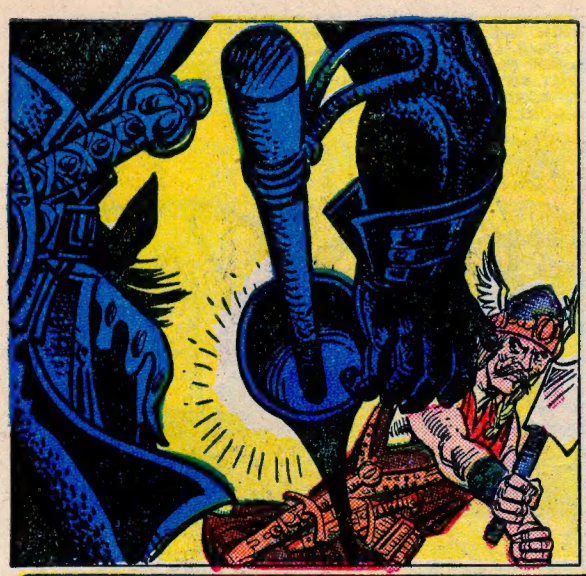
LET HIM GO! HE WANTS NO PART OF BATTLE!
NO, NOT HIM! HOW CAN ONE OF NOBLE BLOOD BE SO COWARDLY...LEAVING A LADY OF THE COURT IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE BARBARIANS!

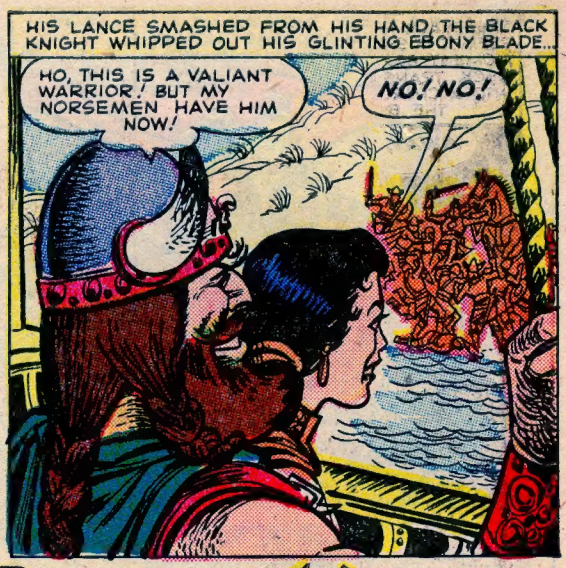
SIR PERCY TURNED QUICKLY FROM THE ROAD INTO THE SHADOWS OF THE TREES! HERE HE HALTED...

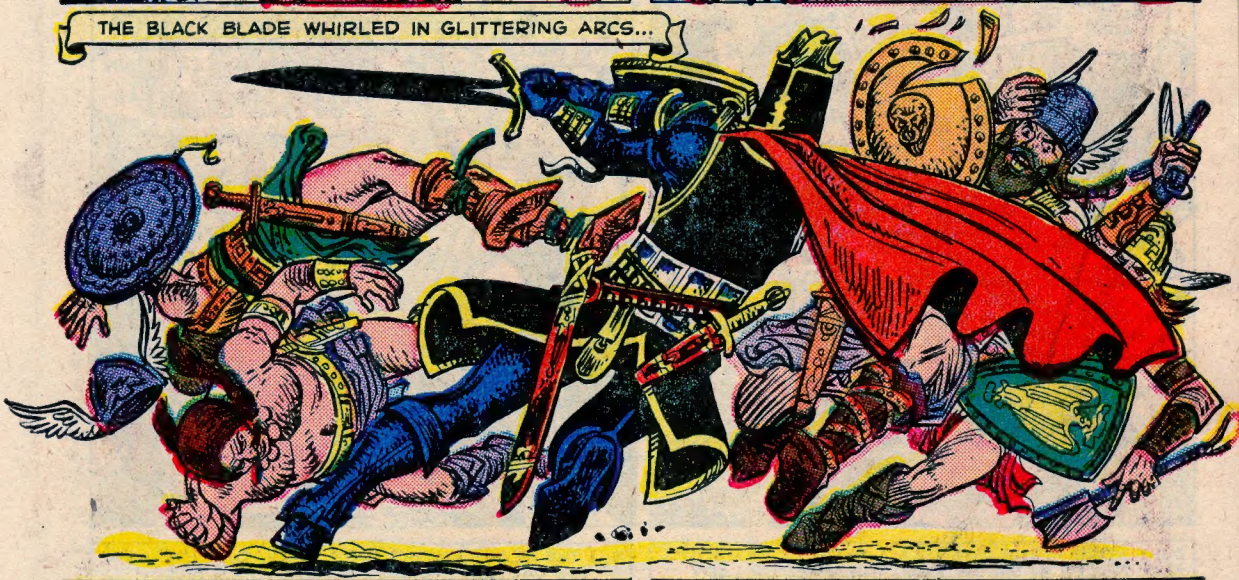


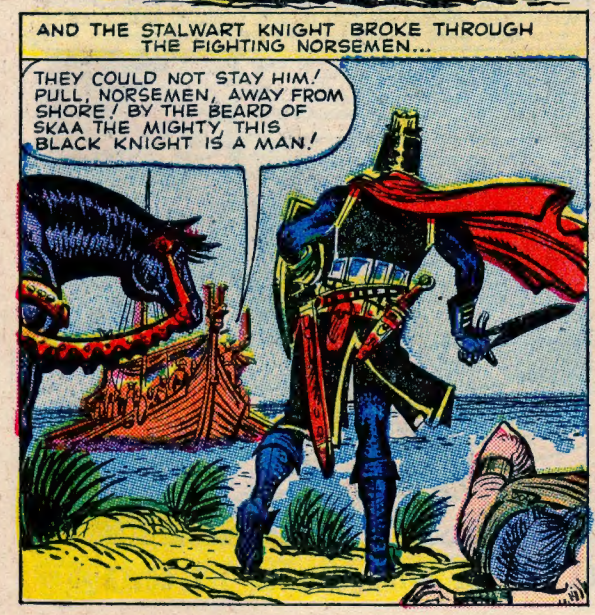
AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER...


THE BLACK HORSE THAT HAD SEEMED A SHUFFLING BEAST BUT A MOMENT BEFORE, ARCHED HIS HIGH NECK, TRANSFORMED IN A MOMENT INTO A CHARGER WORTHY TO CARRY THE BLACK KNIGHT!
AWAY, THUNDER!
WE MUST REACH THE NORSE RAIDERS BEFORE THEY ATTAIN TO THEIR BOATS, FOR ONCE ON THE SEAS, THEY WILL BE BEYOND US AND MY LADY ROSAMUND LOST TO ME FOREVER!
THE NORSEMEN HAD REACHED THE SHORE AND BROUGHT UP THEIR LONGBOATS FROM THE COVE WHERE THEY HAD BEEN HIDDEN...
I AM LOST! NEVER TO SEE ENGLAND'S SHORES AGAIN... DESTINED TO BE WIFE TO A BARBARIAN IN THE COLD, SAVAGE NORTHLAND!
LEIF... BEHOLD, AN ENGLISH KNIGHT COMES!
THE BLACK KNIGHT!
FEND HIM OFF, WHILST I GET THIS NOBLE LADY CLEAR IN THE LONGBOAT!
LIKE A CREATURE OF VENGEANCE, THE TOWERING FIGURE OF THE BLACK KNIGHT THUNDERED INTO THE MIDST OF THE RANKS OF THE MIGHTY NORSEMEN!
HOLA! FOR ENGLAND... AND MY LADY ROSAMUND!

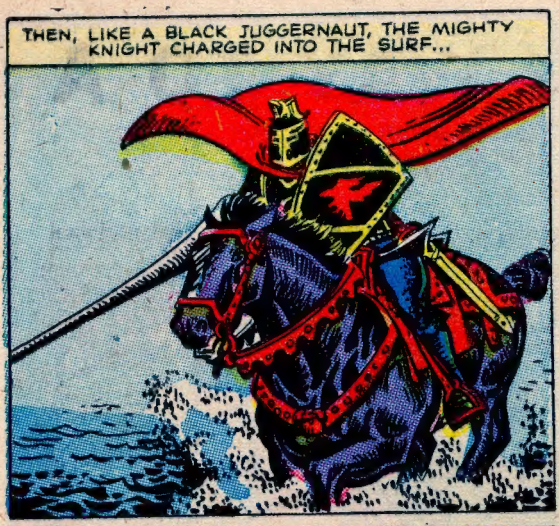


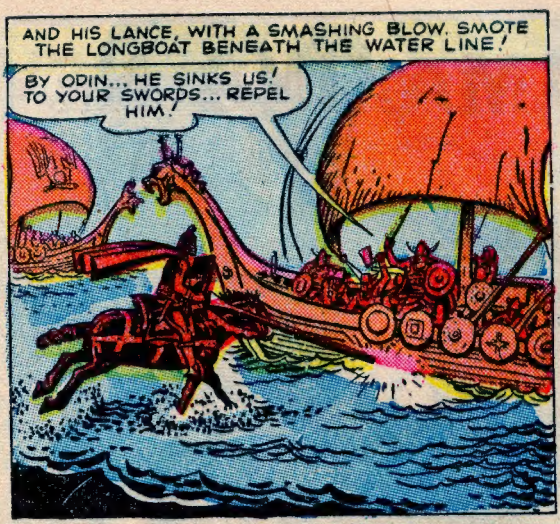

HIS LANCE SMASHED FROM HIS HAND, THE BLACK KNIGHT WHIPPED OUT HIS GLINTING EBONY BLADE...
HO, THIS IS A VALIANT WARRIOR! BUT MY NORSEMEN HAVE HIM NOW!
NO! NO!


THE BLACK BLADE WHIRLED IN GLITTERING ARCS...

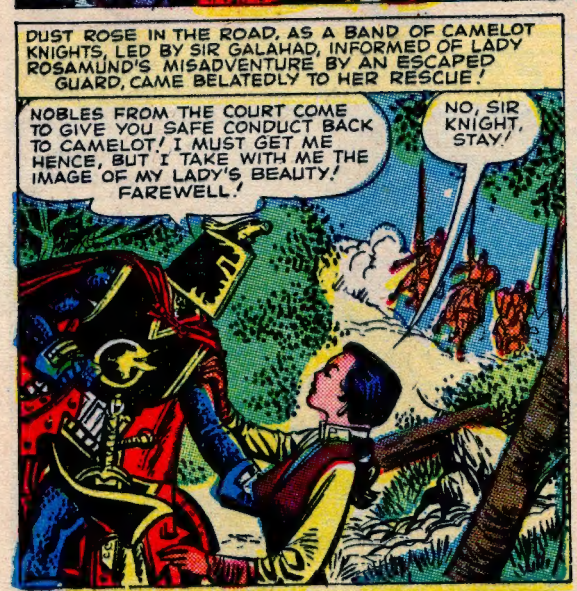

AND THE STALWART KNIGHT BROKE THROUGH THE FIGHTING NORSEMEN...
THEY COULD NOT STAY HIM! PULL, NORSEMEN, AWAY FROM SHORE! BY THE BEARD OF SKAA THE MIGHTY, THIS BLACK KNIGHT IS A MAN!

AS THE LONGBOAT PULLED OUT FROM SHORE, THE BLACK KNIGHT TURNED AND, SCOOPING UP HIS LANCE, HE LEAPED ASIDE HIS CHARGER...
LIFT THE SAILS TO THE WIND!





THE NORSEMEN WERE HAULED FROM THE SEA ABOARD THEIR SISTER SHIP AND LEIF, THE CHIEFTAIN, RAISED HIS SHORT SWORD IN SALUTE TO THE MAN WHO HAD FOUGHT SO GALLANTLY AND WELL!
THE BARBARIAN CHIEFTAIN SALUTES YOU FOR YOUR COURAGE AND MIGHT, AS DO I, MY KNIGHT!


DUST ROSE IN THE ROAD, AS A BAND OF CAMELOT KNIGHTS, LED BY SIR GALAHAD, INFORMED OF LADY ROSAMUND'S MISADVENTURE BY AN ESCAPED GUARD, CAME BELATEDLY TO HER RESCUE!
NOBLES FROM THE COURT COME TO GIVE YOU SAFE CONDUCT BACK TO CAMELOT! I MUST GET ME HENCE, BUT I TAKE WITH ME THE IMAGE OF MY LADY'S BEAUTY! FAREWELL!
NO, SIR KNIGHT, STAY!

BUT THE BLACK KNIGHT SPED AWAY! THAT EVENING, AT THE CASTLE, THE LADY'S HEART WAS FILLED WITH THE VISION OF THE BLACK KNIGHT, WHILE AT HER SIDE A LANGUID SIR PERCY LOLLED...
I SHALL WRITE AN ODE ON THE DANGERS OF FALCONRY, TO COMMEMORATE YOUR MIS-ADVENTURE, MY LADY ROSAMUND!
NAY, WRITE RATHER OF SIR PERCY WHO FLED THE NORSEMEN... AND OF THE BLACK KNIGHT, WHO DROVE THEM FROM OUR LAND!

THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN ADVENTURE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

AMAZING NEW WAY TO A SLIMMER FIGURE

REDUCE WITH *DELICIOUS* KELPIDINE CANDY PLAN!

"WE GUARANTEE YOU WILL LOSE UP TO
5 POUNDS IN 5 DAYS*
10 POUNDS IN 10 DAYS*
15 POUNDS IN 15 DAYS*
25 POUNDS IN 25 DAYS*
AND KEEP IT OFF"**

*How Fast You Lose Weight Depends Upon How Quickly You Order and How Much You Are Overweight

**You Will Always Want to Keep on Eating Kelpidine Candy—and Keep on the Plan—It KEEPS Weight Off!

THIS CANDY MUST TASTE AS GOOD AS OR BETTER THAN YOUR FAVORITE CANDY OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

Now at last science has discovered a new delightfully thrilling way to take off fat—to lose up to 25 lbs. safely! The secret is that Kelpidine Candy satisfies your craving for high calorie foods! It keeps you from overeating—the reason most doctors give for being fat! It's the best aid to will power, cuts your craving for foods!

NO DANGEROUS DRUGS! NO HARDSHIP DIETS!

Here is thrilling news for fat folks! You can lose up to 25 lbs. in 25 days by simply nibbling on tasty appetite satisfying candy, whenever you are tempted to overeat.

YOUR MONEY BACK IF YOU DON'T REDUCE TO THE WEIGHT THAT MOST BECOMES YOU!

Thousands of people were amazed to find that this delicious candy plan actually takes off weight—without dangerous drugs, starvation diet, or hard-to-follow-methods. Here's one way to reduce that you will want to continue with to *keep off* fat! The Kelpidine Candy Plan helps you curb your appetite for fattening foods, helps keep you from overeating. Now you reach for a delicious sweet candy instead of fattening foods—it kills the overpowering urge to overeat—to eat between meal-snacks. Your craving for rich, fattening foods is satisfied with this candy plan. Almost like magic you begin to enjoy this plan for reducing.

SENSATIONAL TWO-WAY GUARANTEE!

This sweet delicious Kelpidine Candy plan is guaranteed (1) to take off up to 10 pounds of excess weight in 10 days. (2) to taste better or as good as your favorite candy and to be the best plan you ever followed or you get your money back.

SCIENTIFICALLY AND CLINICALLY TESTED!

That amazing ingredient in Kelpidine candy is the most remarkable discovery for fat people ever made. It's been tested by doctors in test-after-test. The results were far better than doctors ever hoped for! The results were reported in medical journals throughout the world! Doctors are invited to write for details.

HERE'S HOW TO REDUCE AND STAY SLIM!

Most people are fat because of overeating—too much high calorie fattening foods—to your amazement you will want to keep on eating this delicious candy even after you have reduced to the weight that most becomes you and you'll *keep your weight off that way!*

AMAZING DISCOVERY OF SCIENCE!

The Kelpidine Candy plan is the result of scientific research for years for a new discovery for something that will stop your craving for fattening food and also satisfy your appetite. This delicious candy does not turn into ugly fat, it gives you the same feeling of fullness you have after you have eaten a satisfying meal. It kills your desire to overeat—it kills your craving for bedtime snacks and for in-between meal snacks. It's so safe even a child

IT'S UNHEALTHY TO BE FAT!

Insurance companies and doctors tell everyone that too much fat shortens your life! Fat people die years sooner than people with normal weight! So be Safe! Be Fair to yourself! Start taking off ugly fat with delicious tasting Kelpidine *Candy* plan!

can take it without bad effects. With Kelpidine Candy all you taste is its deliciousness—you can't tell the difference!

KELPIDINE CANDY IS DIFFERENT!

The amazing clinical *tested* and proven reducing substance contained in Kelpidine Candy is prescribed by *many* doctors—Don't be misled by imitation products—Kelpidine Candy is the result of scientific research and is the *last word* in Reducing.

DON'T CUT OUT FOODS** CUT DOWN ON CALORIES!

You never starve, you always feel full with Kelpidine Candy plan—You'll never suffer hunger pangs—Your desire for high calorie fattening foods is always satisfied! With Kelpidine Candy Plan you eat the same quantity of foods—you merely cut down on the high *calorie rich foods* with the help of Kelpidine Candy. You eat as much as you want, your calorie intake will be *less*—That's the delightful amazing thing!

YOU GET A LIBERAL SUPPLY OF CANDY!

Try the liberal supply of Kelpidine Candy Plan on our 10-day *no risk offer*. Keep a record of your weight—if you are not pleased with your loss of weight; if you can taste any difference between this candy and your favorite candy—return for refund. Just fill out coupon and mail to AMERICAN HEALTHAIDS CO., Dept. K 311 Candy Division, 318 Market St., Newark, New Jersey.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

You must be entirely satisfied with your loss of weight—This candy must taste as good as or better than your favorite candy—You must get rid of dangerous excess fat or your money will be refunded—Don't delay—You have nothing to lose but excess weight so mail coupon below now!

THIS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU!

WITH THIS DELICIOUS REDUCING CANDY PLAN!

Let this delicious candy plan help you control your desire for fattening food! Let it help you put a *stop* to the habit of *overeating*—A habit that's so hard to break! Kelpidine candy contains that new discovery many doctors prescribe to help curb your desire to overeat (the main cause of overweight).

$1.00 TRIAL SIZE!

CUT OUT AND MAIL—NO RISK COUPON NOW!

AMERICAN HEALTHAIDS COMPANY, Dept. K311
Candy Division,
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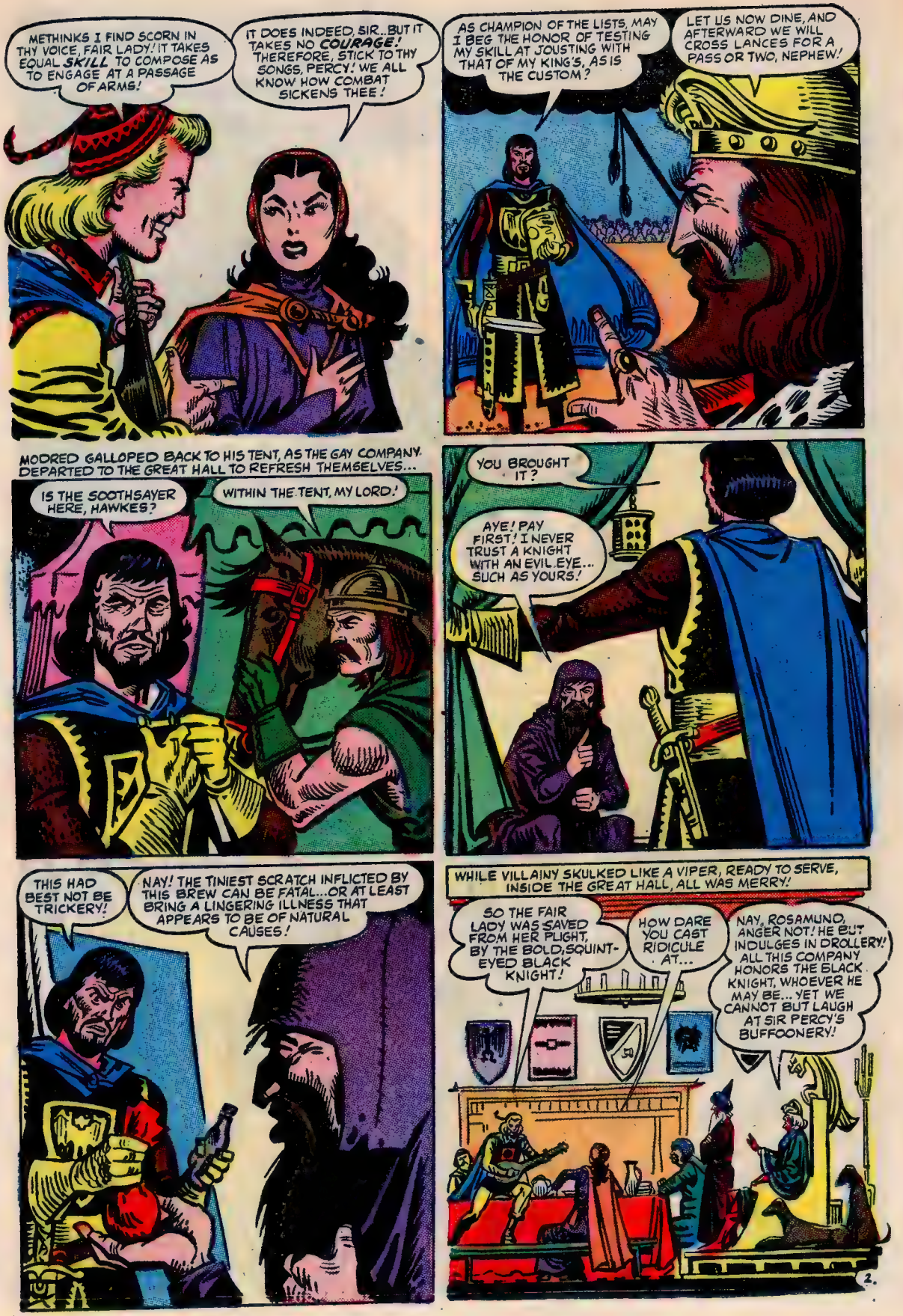
Black Knight
IN THE MIDST OF GAIETY, WICKED PLOTS WERE BORN, THAT GNAWED AT KING ARTHUR'S THRONE, UNTIL THRONE AND KING SHOULD TOPPLE! AND BETWEEN THOSE PLOTS AND PLOTTERS STOOD BUT ONE MAN...
THE BLACK KNIGHT!
MODRED WINS AGAIN!
STAY YOUR SWORD, SIR MODRED! THIS TOURNAMENT IS BUT A SHOW OF KNIGHTLY SKILL, TO COMMEMORATE THE SAFE RETURN OF OUR LADY ROSAMUND FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE NORSEMEN!
Joe Maneely
I BOW TO YOUR WISHES, MY LIEGE LORD! WITH GALAHAD AND LANCELOT GONE FROM CAMELOT, IT WOULD SEEM THAT I AM THE CHAMPION OF THE LISTS!
I SHALL COMPOSE A MADRIGAL TO MY LADY OF THE TOURNAMENT!
YOUR ONLY WEAPONS, SIR PERCY, ARE YOUR SONGS AND LYRICS!
1


METHINKS I FIND SCORN IN THY VOICE, FAIR LADY! IT TAKES EQUAL SKILL TO COMPOSE AS TO ENGAGE AT A PASSAGE OF ARMS!
IT DOES INDEED, SIR...BUT IT TAKES NO COURAGE! THEREFORE, STICK TO THY SONGS, PERCY! WE ALL KNOW HOW COMBAT SICKENS THEE!
AS CHAMPION OF THE LISTS, MAY I BEG THE HONOR OF TESTING MY SKILL AT JOUSTING WITH THAT OF MY KING'S, AS IS THE CUSTOM?
LET US NOW DINE, AND AFTERWARD WE WILL CROSS LANCES FOR A PASS OR TWO, NEPHEW!
MODRED GALLOPED BACK TO HIS TENT, AS THE GAY COMPANY DEPARTED TO THE GREAT HALL TO REFRESH THEMSELVES...
IS THE SOOTHSAYER HERE, HAWKES?
WITHIN THE TENT, MY LORD!
YOU BROUGHT IT?
AYE! PAY FIRST! I NEVER TRUST A KNIGHT WITH AN EVIL EYE... SUCH AS YOURS!
THIS HAD BEST NOT BE TRICKERY!
NAY! THE TINIEST SCRATCH INFLICTED BY THIS BREW CAN BE FATAL...OR AT LEAST BRING A LINGERING ILLNESS THAT APPEARS TO BE OF NATURAL CAUSES!
WHILE VILLAINY SKULKED LIKE A VIPER, READY TO SERVE, INSIDE THE GREAT HALL, ALL WAS MERRY!
SO THE FAIR LADY WAS SAVED FROM HER PLIGHT, BY THE BOLD, SQUINT-EYED BLACK KNIGHT!
HOW DARE YOU CAST RIDICULE AT...
NAY, ROSAMUNO, ANGER NOT! HE BUT INDULGES IN DROLLERY! ALL THIS COMPANY HONORS THE BLACK KNIGHT, WHOEVER HE MAY BE... YET WE CANNOT BUT LAUGH AT SIR PERCY'S BUFFOONERY!
2.

ONLY EVIL MODRED AND HIS MOST TRUSTED MAN KNEW OF THE TREACHERY THAT WAS AFOOT! THEY, AND ONE OTHER! MERLIN THE MAGICIAN, GUARDIAN OF KING ARTHUR PENDRAGON!

IF WE COULD ONLY EXPOSE HIM WITH UNDENIABLE EVIDENCE OF HIS VILLAINY! BUT MY LORD ARTHUR WILL BELIEVE NO EVIL OF A CAMELOT KNIGHT!

HAWKES, GO TO MY MAN WHOM I HAVE PLACED AS THE KING'S SQUIRE! SEE TO IT THAT HE CUTS THE GIRTH OF ARTHUR'S SADDLE! A SCRATCH FROM MY LANCE AND HE IS UNDONE! THEN **I** TAKE THE THRONE!

I MUST GET BACK TO THE GREAT HALL, BEFORE MY LORD FACES THAT POISONED LANCE! THE BLACK KNIGHT MUST RIDE AGAIN!

IN THE GREAT HALL, MERLIN QUIETLY REACHED THE EAR OF SIR PERCY OF SCANDIA, WHOSE LACK OF COURAGE WAS A SOURCE OF RIDICULE IN THE COURT...

COME, LORDS AND LADIES! I ENTER THE LIST AGAINST MODRED! WHAT WHISPER THOU, MERLIN... A NEW VERSE FOR SIR PERCY'S SONGS?

NAY SIRE! THE GOOD MERLIN URGES ME TO WATCH THE PERFECTION OF YOUR SWORDPLAY, SO I MAY BENEFIT! BUT I SICKEN OF MORE COMBAT, SO I SHALL RETIRE TO MY ROOMS AND LEAVE THE FIELD OF ARMS TO BETTER MEN!

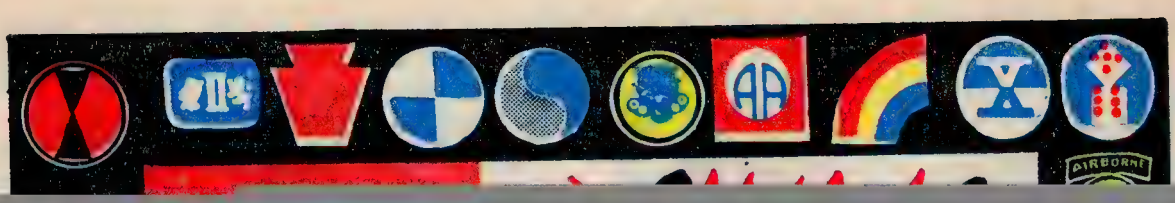
AS THOU WISH! COME, I MUST DON MY ARMOR FOR THE FRAY!

A SHORT TIME LATER, MIGHTY ARTHUR, MASTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE, PROUDLY ENTERED THE TOURNAMENT FIELD!

SOON IT WILL BE OVER! I SHALL MOURN MY LORD WITH GREATER ANGUISH THAN ANY HERE, EVEN THOUGH FALSELY!

HANDLE THE LANCE CAREFULLY, MY LORD! THE TIP IS DRENCHED WITH EVIL BREW!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...


AIRBORNE

THE TRUMPETS BLARED! THE KNIGHTS FIXED THEIR LANCES AND AWAITED THE SIGNAL...

EVENTS HAVE MOVED WITH TOO GREAT HASTE! I FEAR THE BLACK KNIGHT WILL BE TOO LATE TO SAVE ARTHUR!

THEN A CRY CAME FROM THE THROATS OF THE WATCHERS! A BLACK-CLAD FIGURE THUNDERED ONTO THE FIELD!

HOLD! MY LORD MODRED PROCLAIMS HIMSELF CHAMPION OF THE LISTS! I CALL HIS CLAIM FALSE, FOR HE HAS ***NOT*** FACED ***ME***, BEFORE HE PARTAKES OF THE HONOR OF TILTING WITH THE KING!

I LEAVE THE FIELD, TO HONOR THE CHALLENGE OF THE BLACK KNIGHT! USE THOU MY LANCE, NOBLE SIR!

HAVE AT THEE THEN, BLACK KNIGHT, AND MAY MY LANCE POINT FIND ITS MARK!

ANGER SWEEPING CAUTION ASIDE, SIR MODRED SPED AT THE EBONY FIGURE, POISON-TIPPED LANCE COUCHED...

HOLA! FOR PENDRAGON!

THE BREW AT MY LANCE POINT SHALL RID ME FOREVER OF THIS KNIGHT, WHO CONTINUALLY THWARTS MY PLANS! THEN ARTHUR...

THEY TURNED THEN AND CHARGED TO THE ENDS OF THE FIELD! THEN THEY RACED TOWARD EACH OTHER AGAIN, MODRED WITH HIS TREACHEROUS LANCE AND THE BLACK KNIGHT WITH HIS EBONY SWORD...

UNFAIR! THAT GALLANT KNIGHT HAS BUT HIS SWORD AGAINST MODRED'S LANCE!

TOO LATE, ROSAMUND! THEY CLASH THIS SECOND!

THE BLACK SWORD WHISTLED IN A BLURRED AND POWERFUL DOWNWARD STROKE...

ENOUGH! TOURNAMENT PLAY CAUSES TEMPERS TO RISE, AND I WANT NO INJURY TO EITHER OF YOU BRAVE KNIGHTS!

HIE THEE TO THY ROOMS TO DRESS AND PREPARE FOR A GREAT FEAST TO END THIS TOURNAMENT, MY LORDS AND LADIES!

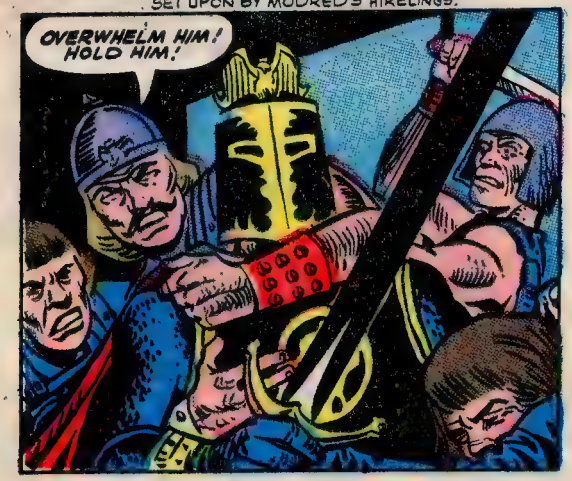
HAWKES, GATHER THE MEN! POST SOME TO ENGAGE AND DELAY THE BLACK KNIGHT! NOW IS MY CHANCE TO LEARN HIS IDENTITY!

WE WILL SEARCH EVERY ROOM IN THE CASTLE, AND THAT KNIGHTS ROOM WHICH IS EMPTY WE CAN ASSUME IS THIS BLACK KNIGHT'S! THEN, WHOEVER IT IS, WE WILL FIND A WAY TO DEAL WITH HIM!

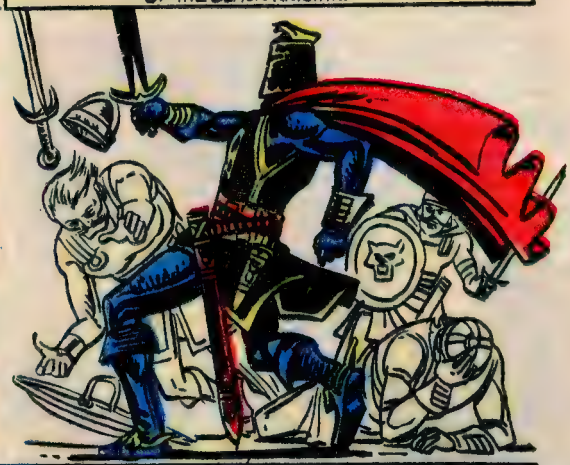
HURRY DOWN THIS PASSAGE! I WILL MEET YOU AT THE SUPPLY CHAMBERS! TARRY NOT, OR YOUR IDENTITY WILL BE REVEALED AND WE WILL BE UNDONE!

I WILL BE THERE IN SECONDS, MERLIN!

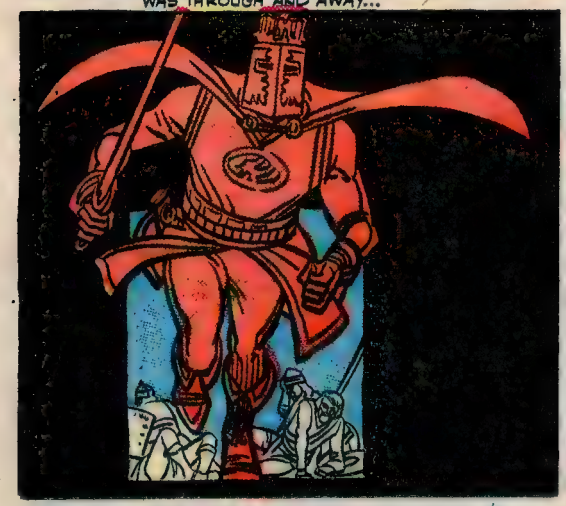
THE BLACK KNIGHT ENTERED THE PASSAGE AND WAS IMMEDIATELY SET UPON BY MODRED'S HIRELINGS!



BUT WHO CAN HOLD A BLACK TORNADO? ONLY THEY WHO CAN PERFORM SUCH A MIRACLE, COULD STOP THE PASSAGE OF THE BLACK KNIGHT...



STEEL CLASHED LIKE LIGHTNING! THEN THE BLACK KNIGHT WAS THROUGH AND AWAY...



QUICKLY, THROUGH HERE! IT CLIMBS AND ENTERS BY A HIDDEN TRAP DOOR UNDER THE TABLE IN YOUR ROOM! SHED YOUR ARMOR AS YOU GO... THERE IS LITTLE TIME!

MEANWHILE, IN THE CASTLE ABOVE, MODRED AND HIS MEN SEARCHED ALL THE ROOMS OF EVERY KNIGHT OF CAMELOT! THEN THEY ENTERED SIR PERCY'S ROOM, THOUGH THIS SEEMED RIDICULOUS TO MODRED...

EVERY KNIGHT WAS IN HIS ROOM, EXCEPT OF COURSE LANCELOT AND GALAHAD, WHO ARE AWAY! BUT STAY... COULD IT BE THAT ONE OF THEM RETURNED AS THE BLACK KNIGHT?
SIR PERCY IS NOT HERE! IT SEEMS FARFETCHED TO IMAGINE HIM THE BLACK KNIGHT! YET... HE IS ABSENT!

SUSPICION FORMED IN MODRED'S MIND! COULD SIR PERCY BE THE BLACK KNIGHT, HIS COWARDICE ASSUMED? SUSPICION WAS HARDENING INTO FACT, WHEN...

AH, TIS YOU, COUSIN MODRED! I GREW A BIT FRIGHTENED AT THE SOUND OF COMBAT OUTSIDE, AND I THOUGHT... WELL IT WAS DARK AND QUIET UNDER THE TABLE!
HA, HA, HA! AND I THOUGHT THIS POLTROON COULD BE... OH NO... NOT IN A THOUSAND YEARS!

THE END

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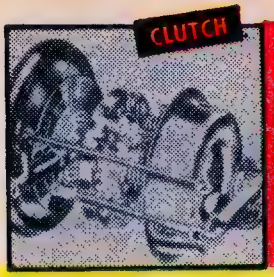

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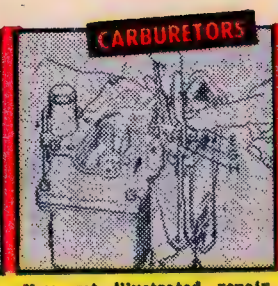

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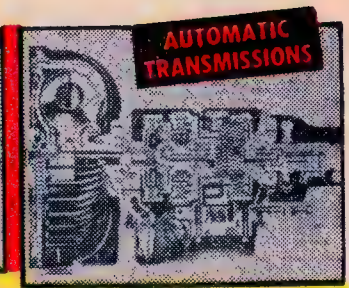

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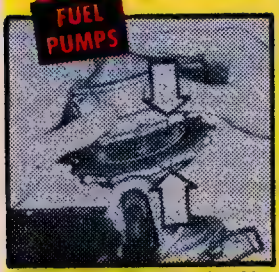

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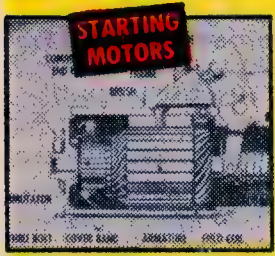

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THE ROUND TABLE

AFTER Arthur had ruled wisely and well for many years after his being proclaimed king, Merlin came to him one day, very much concerned.

"It has been said, my worthy king, that a ruler of such great wisdom and the winner of so many brave battles should not rule alone."

"What do you mean, Merlin?" spoke Arthur.

"There are many nobles and knights who feel that Camelot should have a queen . . . and you, Arthur, a wife."

"But I have not thought yet of marriage," Arthur told Merlin his counselor. "I am yet a young man, and there are yet many battles to do. A man in battle surely does not need a wife to stay at home and wait for him."

"I cannot force you to wed," Merlin replied to his king. "Nor can I convince you that something is right when you do not feel in your heart that it is so. I can only remind my liege that although he is a worthy ruler, there are yet many enemies within his kingdom. Enemies which are even here in the castle of Camelot."

"This is so, Merlin," Arthur reflected.

"And while my liege is away from his home, these enemies may have the ear of many people. People that would refuse to believe their idle chatter if there were someone . . . a wife . . . to represent your majesty in his absence."

"As always, Merlin, you are right," Arthur exclaimed. And in his thoughts, there appeared to him a vision of a lovely lady.

"Since your majesty has seen fit to agree with my counsel, surely there must be one lady in the whole of your kingdom whom you think fairer and more able to wear the queenly garments than any other."

Arthur's thoughts flew back to the time a few years previously when his troops and armies did battle against the enemies to the north. He stayed at the kingdom of the good King Leodegrance then. In the castle of this king, Arthur's father's oldest and dearest friend, he had first espied the Lady Guinevere, his daughter. Even then he thought her fair and loyal.

"Yes," Arthur at last replied to Merlin. "There *is* a lady, the fair Guinevere, whose father has proved his loyalty to us and to our country."

"You have made a wise choice," Merlin agreed. "The Lady Guinevere is indeed a gracious lady."

It was then agreed upon, and messengers were dispatched that very afternoon to King Leodegrance with the joyous news that his daughter was to be the first lady of the kingdom. The messengers hastened in their duties, and before many suns had set, they appeared at the moat, seeking entrance in the name of King Arthur, and were admitted happily and with great feasting.

At the supper table that evening, they told their news to King Leodegrance.

"My daughter, fair Guinevere, the Queen of England," he murmured joyfully, and quickly bade her enter so that he could tell her what the king had wished.

"My lord, the king of all England, is generous," she answered, with downcast eyes. And as the messengers and her father listened in expectation to her final answer, she said, "and you may impart to my liege that I am happy to accept his proposal."

At once the castle of King Leodegrance was filled with festivities. Although the duties of state kept Arthur from making his proposal personally, the news was welcome and the joyful hearts of all his loyal subjects showed approval of his choice.

King Leodegrance was proud and happy, but his joy was shortlived for a while. It was the custom in those days, for the father of a bride to provide a dowry of lands or gold to the man who married his daughter, but the good king was at a loss at what great gifts to send Arthur.

"He has lands . . . more than he can live upon had he twelve lifetimes. And gold . . . what need for a monarch such as he for gold? Is there nothing which I may send him to show the honor which he has bestowed

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

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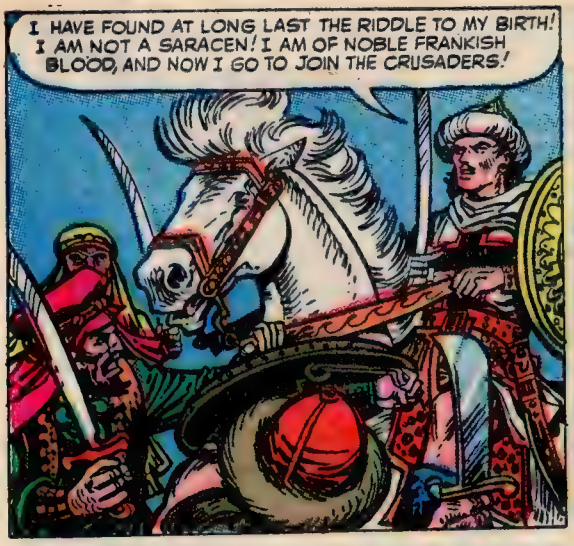
The CRUSADER

LIKE SAND DRIFTING OVER THE DESERT, THE SAVAGE HORDES SLIPPED UNSEEN AROUND KING RICHARD'S CAMP! THEN CAME ONE WHO HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE ENGLISH MONARCH, A MAN WHO HAD BUT SHORTLY BEFORE THOUGHT HIMSELF A SARACEN, BUT KNEW HIMSELF NOW TO BE AN ENGLISHMAN! AND THE MONGOLS LEAPED UPON HIM!

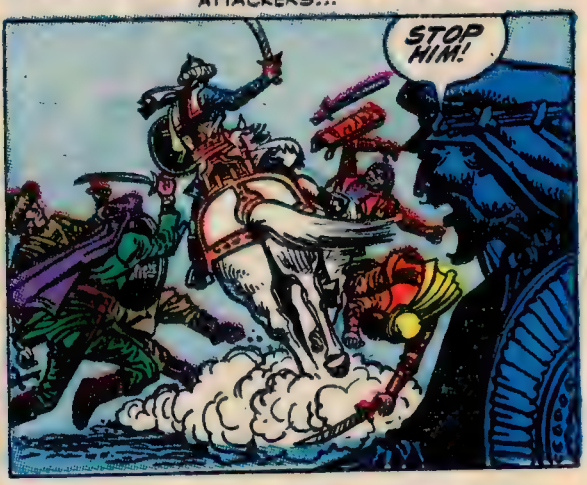
THE SARACEN BLADE WHIPPED IN THE MOON'S BEAMS, WHIRLING IN SKILLFUL PLAY...

SUDDENLY, THE MIXED BAND DREW BACK...

HOLD! THAT IS THE SARACEN BLADE!
AND ONLY ONE MAN CAN WIELD THAT INVINCIBLE BLADE! AYE, 'TIS EL ALEMAIN, THE HAWK! WHAT DO YOU DO IN THIS FRANKISH ARMOR, PRINCE?

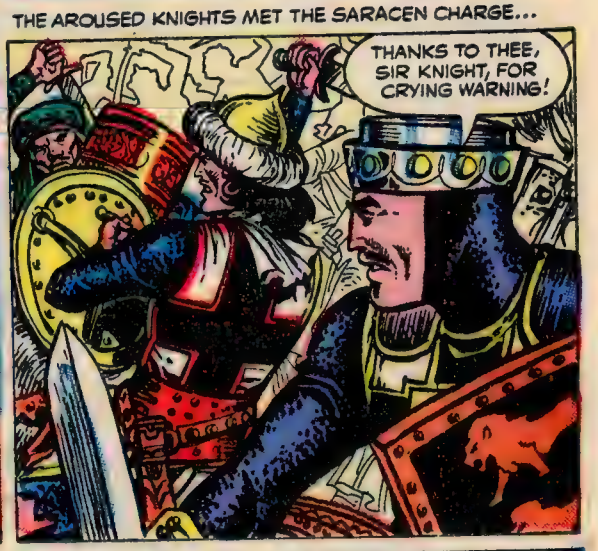

I HAVE FOUND AT LONG LAST THE RIDDLE TO MY BIRTH! I AM NOT A SARACEN! I AM OF NOBLE FRANKISH BLOOD, AND NOW I GO TO JOIN THE CRUSADERS!

IN THAT PAUSE IN THE FRAY, THE FORMER SARACEN PRINCE PUT SPURS TO HIS HORSE AND PLUNGED THROUGH HIS ATTACKERS...

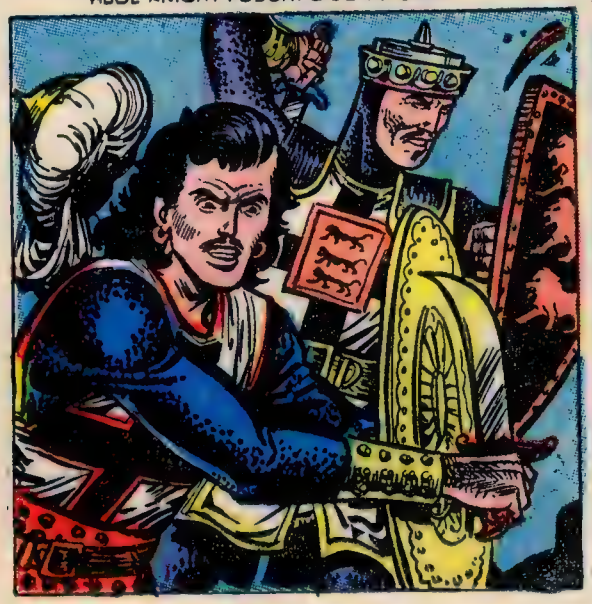


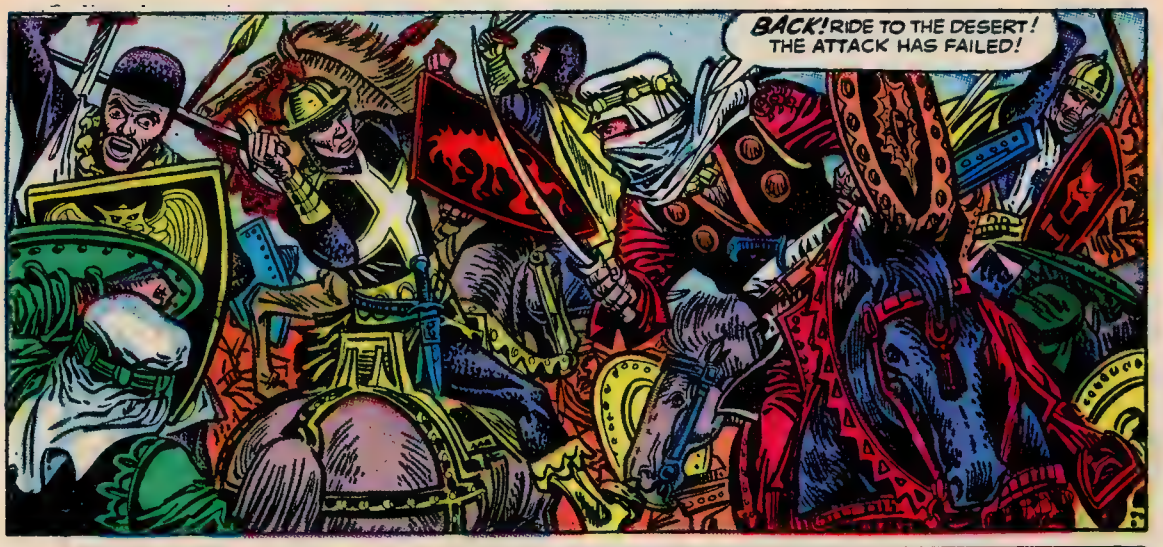
BUT THE SARACEN SWORD HE WIELDED SO WELL, BROUGHT THEM TO BAY, AND HE THUNDERED TOWARD RICHARD'S CAMP!

THE AROUSED KNIGHTS MET THE SARACEN CHARGE...



THE WIELDER OF THE FABULOUS SARACEN BLADE, AND THE HUGE KNIGHT FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE...





THE SARACENS VANISHED INTO THE DESERT LIKE MIST ON A RIVER, AND THE VICTORIOUS KNIGHTS GALLOPED BACK TO CAMP!

I DO NOT REMEMBER YOU, SIR, THOUGH YOU WEAR THE ARMOR OF THE CRUSADERS! HOW ARE YOU CALLED?
THAT INVOLVES A STRANGE TALE! THAT IS WHY I AM HERE...TO SEE KING RICHARD!

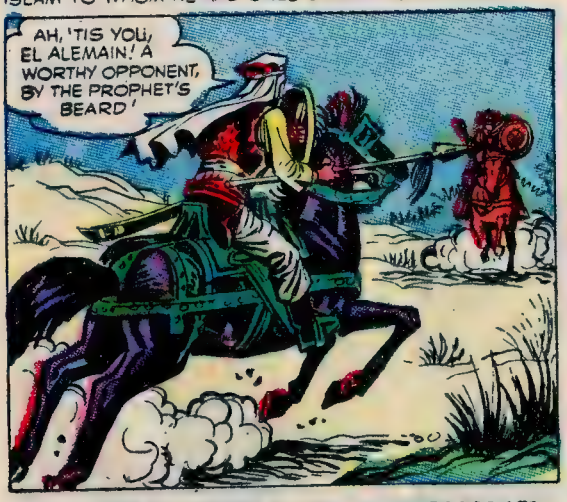
YOU HAVE FOUND HIM! I AM RICHARD OF ENGLAND ...RICHARD COEUR DE LION!
I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED HIM! HE IS A SPY, RICHARD...NONE OTHER THAN THE SARACEN PRINCE, EL ALEMAIN!

SO HE SPOKE, AND AS HIS TALE UNFOLDED, THE NIGHT FADED AND DAWN CAME...

...SO THEN I KNEW WHY MY SYMPATHIES HAD BEEN WITH THE CRUSADERS, AND AGAINST THE PEOPLE WHOM I HAD THOUGHT MINE! SIR JOHN SAW THIS AMULET, NAMED ME "BROTHER", AND BADE ME FIND AND ESPOUSE YOUR CAUSE!
3

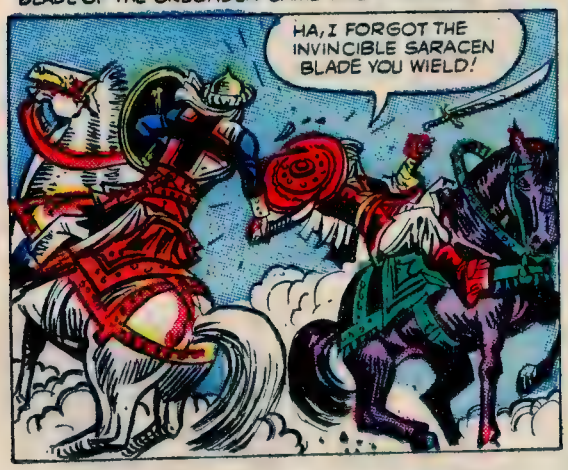
IT IS A LIE!
NAY! I REMEMBER THAT LADY O'DARE WAS CAST UPON EASTERN SHORES WITH HER INFANT AND CAPTURED! AND SO YOU ARE THAT LITTLE CHILD... BROTHER TO SIR JOHN, WHOM YOU TELL US DIED! I ACCEPT YOUR TALE, SIR!
NOW WHAT IS THIS?
'TIS SALADIN HIMSELF... THE GREATEST WARRIOR IN ALL ISLAM! HE IS AN ADVENTURER WHO, BY HIS MIGHT, GRASPED POWER AND INSTITUTED THIS HOLY WAR AGAINST YOU!
HEAR ME! SEND OUT A CHAMPION TO FACE ME ALONE IN COMBAT, MAN TO MAN! I CHALLENGE THEE! SEND ME YOUR LEADER!
THIS GALLANT WANTS A PASSAGE OF ARMS, SO I SHALL...
NAY, RICHARD, WE CANNOT SPARE THEE! IT IS A TRAP, AND MANY OF THEM WILL RISE TO SLAY YOU, SHOULD YOU VENTURE FORTH!
THAT IS UNTRUE! THE HIGHBORN SARACEN IS A MAN OF HONOR, AND SALADIN IS AS HONORABLE AS ANY KNIGHT!
SO YOU DEFEND THEM! IF YOU ARE TRULY WITH OUR CAUSE AND AGAINST YOUR FORMER FRIENDS, GO YOU AND ACCEPT SALADIN'S CHALLENGE AND GIVE HIM BATTLE!
MAY YOU TRIUMPH OVER THE INFIDEL, AND RETURN UNHARMED! ENGLAND HAS NEED OF SUCH COURAGEOUS WARRIORS AS YOU!
I THANK THEE, SIRE! I SHALL DO MY BEST!
4

SO HE RODE OUT, HIS HEART FILLED WITH THE SMILING FACE OF RICHARD COEUR DE LION, TO FACE THE WARRIOR OF ISLAM TO WHOM HE HAD ONCE SWORN ALLEGIANCE...

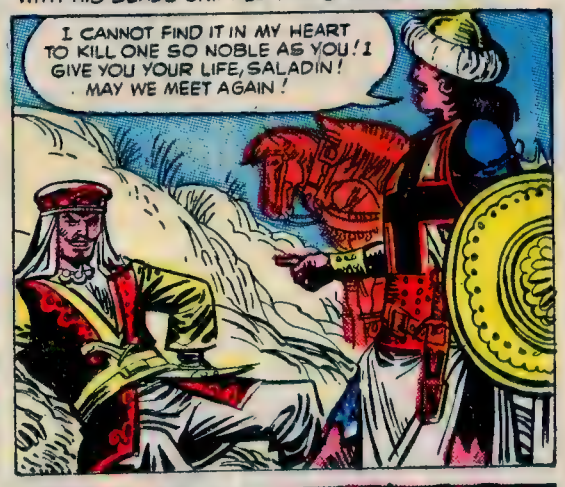


I HONOR YOU, FOR DOING THAT WHICH YOUR HEART BIDS YOU! THEREFORE I WILL NOT KILL YOU TODAY! THEN I SHALL KNOW ANOTHER HONORABLE MAN RIDES WITH OUR ANTAGONISTS!

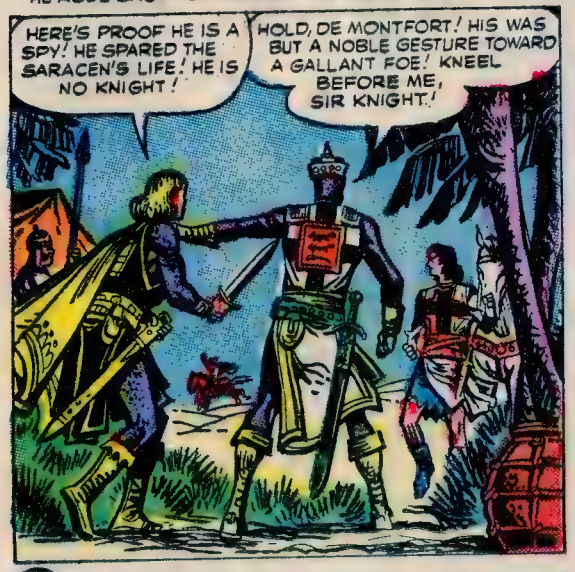
THEIR LANCES SPLINTERED, THE TWO WARRIORS TOOK TO THEIR SWORDS! AND IT WAS THEN THAT THE SARACEN BLADE OF THE CRUSADER CAME INTO ITS OWN...



THE MIGHTY CRUSADER LEAPED FROM HIS HORSE, AND WITH HIS BLADE GRIPPED FIRMLY IN HIS HAND...



HE RODE BACK TO THE CAMP OF THE CRUSADERS...


HERE'S PROOF HE IS A SPY! HE SPARED THE SARACEN'S LIFE! HE IS NO KNIGHT!
HOLD, DE MONTFORT! HIS WAS BUT A NOBLE GESTURE TOWARD A GALLANT FOE! KNEEL BEFORE ME, SIR KNIGHT!

I DUB THEE SIR CRUSADER, A TRUE KNIGHT OF THE REALM, AND THOU SHALT RIDE ALWAYS AT THY KING'S RIGHT HAND! ARISE, LORD OF THE O'DARE MANOR! ARISE, SIR CRUSADER!
5

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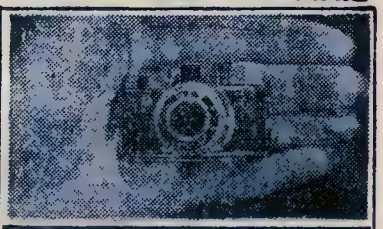

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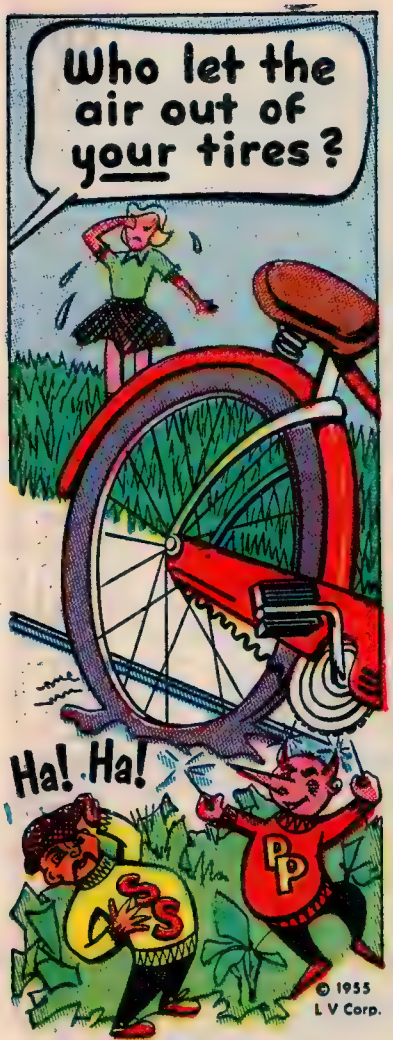

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CONTINUED

upon our family?"

"Good Arthur would think none the less of you if you gave him nothing but your daughter," one of his counselors suggested. "You were his father's best friend . . . what need of gifts between two such loyal families?"

"All that is true," Leodegrance agreed, "yet what would England think of a father so ungrateful as to provide nothing. Yes, I must send good Arthur something . . . a gift that shall be worthy of such a great knight and a noble king."

As Leodegrance pondered, he paced through his castle, through the great dining hall and the private chambers of state, through the large corridors, and eventually found himself before a door which had not been used since Arthur's father's days. The Great Hall, where all the noble knights used to gather upon great occasions of celebrations or victories. He opened the door, and his eyes fell upon the one gift worthy of such a man as Arthur. The Round Table . . . a gift from his old friend Uther Pendragon. The Round Table . . . large enough to seat 150 knights. The Round Table . . . used for years to commemorate solemn and joyous occasions of the sons of royal blood.

"This, then, shall be my gift to Arthur as a wedding present. This Round Table, and with it, a full one hundred of my best knights. And only those who have proved themselves worthy to fight for Arthur and England."

He raced from the Great Hall to his counselors and told them of his decision. "Yes," they agreed. "This is the thing to send to Arthur Pendragon. This that was once his father's."

Upon the next morning, the parade started from the halls and battlements of King Leodegrance's castle. The trumpets blared, and the knights were arrayed in their most glittering armor. Lady Guinevere was astride a pure white horse, her scarf blowing behind her great cloak, and all was in readiness for the ride to Arthur's lands of Camelot.

And it was this way that Arthur, taking his walk on the towers of Camelot, first spied the procession, winding down from the hills to the north.

"Make ready," he cried to his guards and sentries. "Send out a greeting party. Prepare the hall for banquets and feasting." And all Camelot made ready for the arrival of their new queen.

After the banquet that evening, Merlin himself ushered the king into the Great Hall of Camelot. He flung open the bolted door and there stood the Round Table before Arthur's amazed eyes.

"A wedding present for your majesty," he said. "King Leodegrance bids you 'hail' and for such a worthy knight and king, bids you take this table . . . and with it his hundred knights, sworn to defend you and your lady and England from all its foes."

King Arthur stepped to the table and ran his hand over the worn wood. "It was my father's," he said to himself. "And now it is mine."

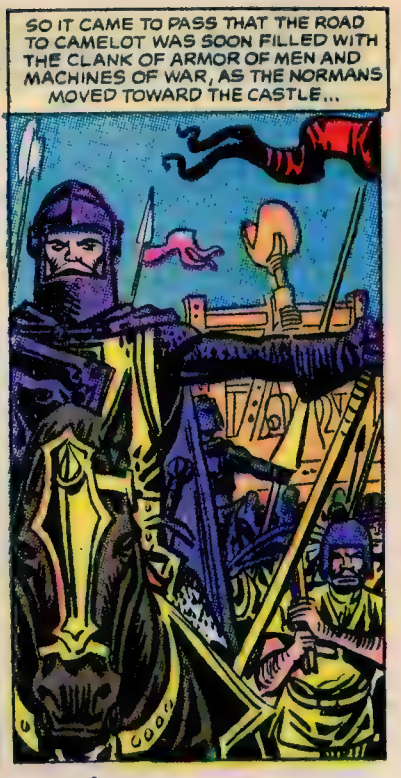
And Merlin said, "I can tell you, my liege, that with this table and with the knights who shall sit here, your reign over England will be long and happy."

"I pray that it shall be," Arthur said feelingly, and that evening, England started upon a new age of chivalry and generosity, led by the mightiest man of that century, Arthur, king of England, and his queen, Guinevere.

THE END G-281

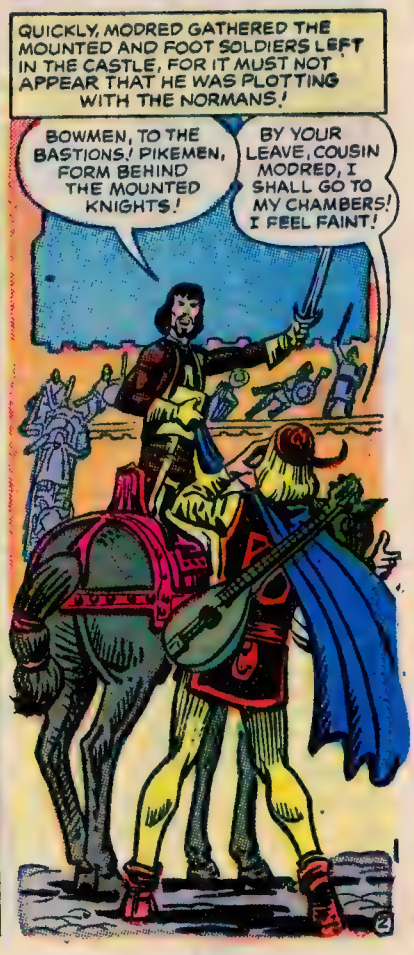
Black Knight
FROM THE BATTLEMENTS OF CASTLE CAMELOT, THE BLACK KNIGHT WATCHED, AS KING ARTHUR AND HIS RETINUE RODE OUT! THIS WAS THE TIME OF SHEARING AND THE KING, AS WAS HIS CUSTOM, JOURNEYED THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE TO SHARE THE PEASANTS' HOLIDAY! THERE WAS NO CLOUD IN THE SKY, YET IN THE HEART OF THE BLACK KNIGHT UNEASINESS STIRRED, FOR HE SOMEHOW SENSED THAT ALL WAS NOT WELL IN CAMELOT!
MODRED STAYED BEHIND TO GUARD THE CASTLE, SO I STAYED TOO! BUT WHAT IS HIS PURPOSE? MERLIN IS GONE WITH THE KING, SO HIS WISDOM IS LOST TO ME FOR THE MOMENT! WHAT PORTENT COMES TO ME THAT TURNS THE WARM SUN CHILL?
Joe Maneely
HASTE THOU, HAWKES, TO THE ARMED CAMP OF SIR ROBERT DE QUINCY AND THE NORMANS WHOM I HAVE SUMMONED! TELL HIM THE TIME IS RIPE TO STRIKE! THE KING IS GONE AND I LEAD THE PALACE GUARD!
I GO AT ONCE, MY LORD!
4

HOW CAN THE FALL OF CAMELOT TO THE NORMANS SERVE OUR ENDS, MODRED?
AH, MORGAN LE FEY, MY WIFE! IT WILL SEEM THAT DE QUINCY HAS TAKEN CAMELOT! WHEN ARTHUR RETURNS, HE WILL BE SEIZED! THEN MY AGREEMENT WITH THE NORMAN IS THAT HE WILL SET ME ON THE THRONE AS KING!
DE QUINCY AND I SHALL SHARE ENGLAND'S WEALTH IN TITHES AND TAXES! AND THE TIME WILL COME WHEN I WILL PLOT DE QUINCY'S DOWNFALL! THEN ALL OF ENGLAND SHALL BE MINE!

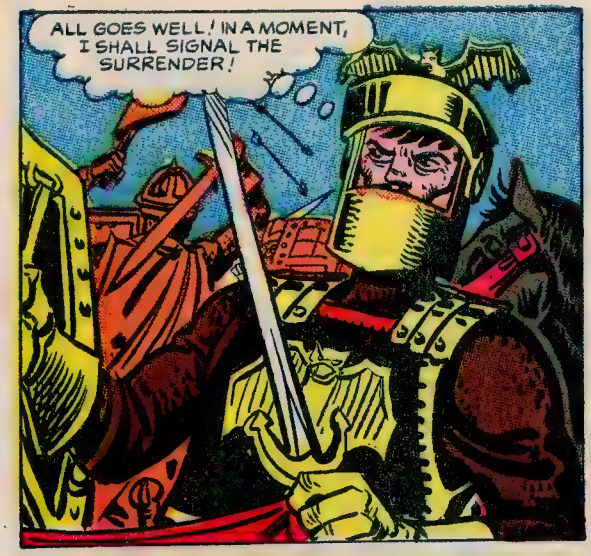

SO IT CAME TO PASS THAT THE ROAD TO CAMELOT WAS SOON FILLED WITH THE CLANK OF ARMOR OF MEN AND MACHINES OF WAR, AS THE NORMANS MOVED TOWARD THE CASTLE...

WHILE IN THE CASTLE, MODRED IMPATIENTLY WAITED, WITH THE OTHERS WHO HAD STAYED BEHIND...
I SHALL COMPOSE A POEM ABOUT THE TIME ARTHUR WENT AMONGST THE PEASANTS TO CHAT WITH THE SERFS OF SHEEP AND SWINE!
WHEN I SIT ON THE THRONE, I SHALL CAST OUT THIS UNMANLY COUSIN OF MINE, PERCY! HIS COWARDICE AND SHARP WIT IRK ME SORELY!

THEN, FROM THE WATCHTOWER, THERE CAME A CRY...
ALARM! A MAILED MULTITUDE APPROACHES... AND ABOVE IT FLIES NORMAN PENNANTS!

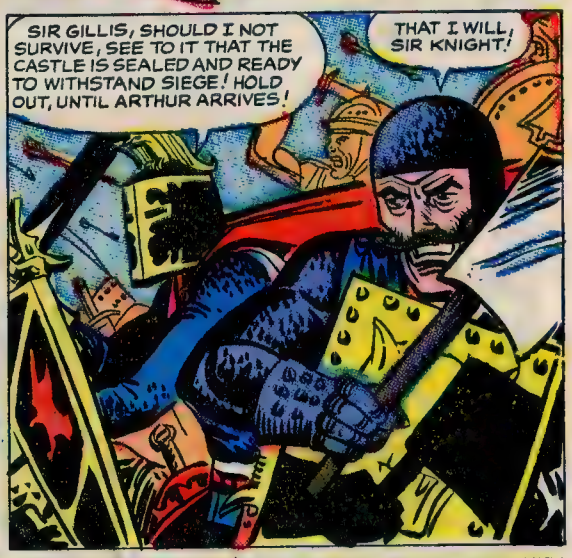

QUICKLY, MODRED GATHERED THE MOUNTED AND FOOT SOLDIERS LEFT IN THE CASTLE, FOR IT MUST NOT APPEAR THAT HE WAS PLOTTING WITH THE NORMANS!
BOWMEN, TO THE BASTIONS! PIKEMEN, FORM BEHIND THE MOUNTED KNIGHTS!
BY YOUR LEAVE, COUSIN MODRED, I SHALL GO TO MY CHAMBERS! I FEEL FAINT!

DRAW UP THE PORTCULLIS... LOWER THE DRAWBRIDGE! WE SALLY FORTH TO MEET THE NORMANS!
WHAT FOOL'S GAME IS THIS? WE SHOULD MAN THE BATTLEMENTS AND WITHSTAND A SIEGE UNTIL THE KING RETURNS TO RELIEVE US! THE NORMANS OUTNUMBER US TOO GREATLY FOR PITCHED BATTLE!
THE DRAWBRIDGE THUNDERED TO THE HOOFS OF CAMELOT HORSES, AS THE KNIGHTS RODE OUT...
...TO BE MET BY A HAIL OF ARROWS FROM NORMAN BOWS...
THEN, IN SWIFT MANEUVER THE NORMANS SPLIT TO EACH SIDE, FLANKING THE MEN OF CAMELOT!
SUDDEN HOOFBEATS CLATTERED ON THE COBBLED COURTYARD AND, AS THOUGH APPEARING OUT OF THIN AIR, AN EBONY-ARMORED FIGURE DREW REIN!
BUT MY LORD MODRED BADE US WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL TO LOOSE OUR SHAFTS!
THERE IS NO TIME FOR WAITING! DRAW YOUR BOWS, OR CAMELOT IS LOST!


ALL GOES WELL! IN A MOMENT, I SHALL SIGNAL THE SURRENDER!

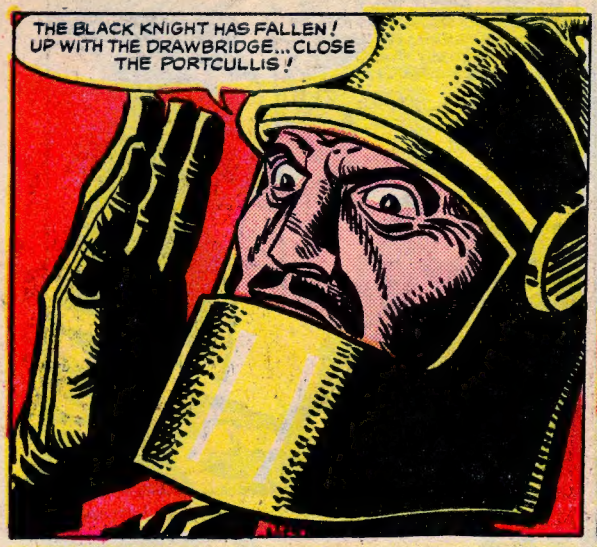
RALLY TO ME, MEN OF CAMELOT! STRIKE FOR THY KING!
THE BLACK KNIGHT! RALLY! RALLY!

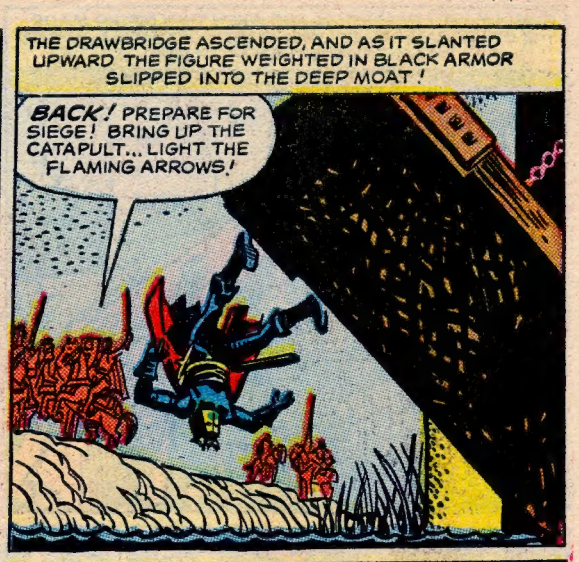
THEY FORMED AROUND HIM, BACKING SLOWLY TOWARD THE CASTLE, FIRED BY THEIR CHAMPION IN BLACK, WHILE THE ENGLISH ARCHERS DARKENED THE SKY WITH THEIR SHAFTS!
THIS BLACK KNIGHT IS MY NEMESIS!

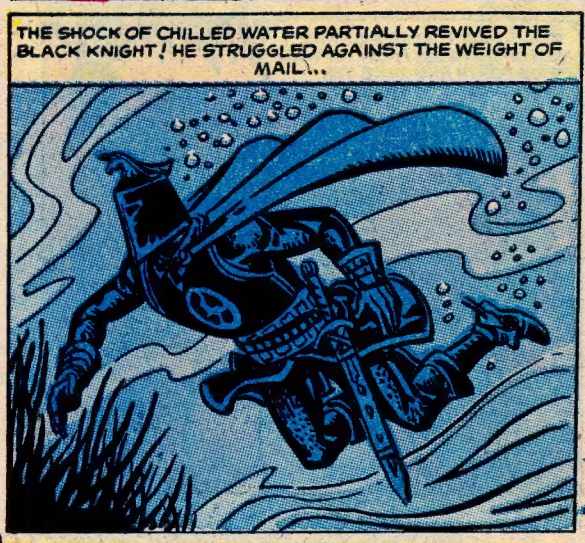

SIR GILLIS, SHOULD I NOT SURVIVE, SEE TO IT THAT THE CASTLE IS SEALED AND READY TO WITHSTAND SIEGE! HOLD OUT, UNTIL ARTHUR ARRIVES!
THAT I WILL, SIR KNIGHT!

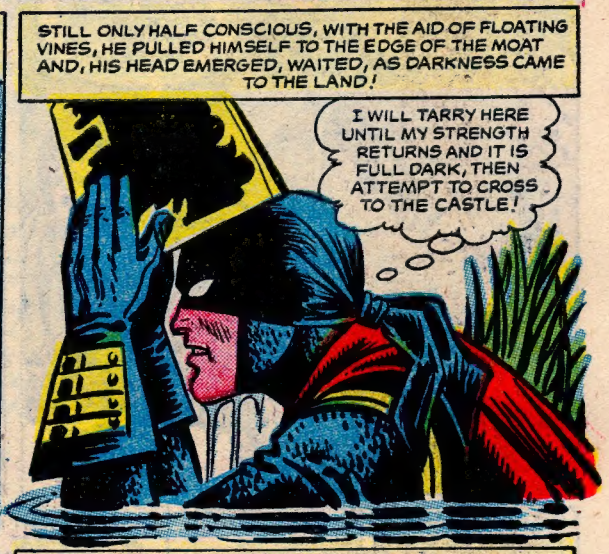
AS THEY REACHED THE DRAWBRIDGE, THE BLACK KNIGHT SHOUTED...
TURN INTO THE CASTLE, WHILST I HOLD THEM! QUICKLY!

AND IN THAT MOMENT THAT THE BACKS OF THE KNIGHTS WERE TURNED AND THE SHADOW OF THE WALLS COVERED HIM FROM THE PRYING EYES ABOVE, MODRED STRUCK HIS TREACHEROUS BLOW!
NEVER AGAIN SHALL YOU THWART MY WILL, BLACK KNIGHT!


THE BLACK KNIGHT HAS FALLEN! UP WITH THE DRAWBRIDGE... CLOSE THE PORTCULLIS!

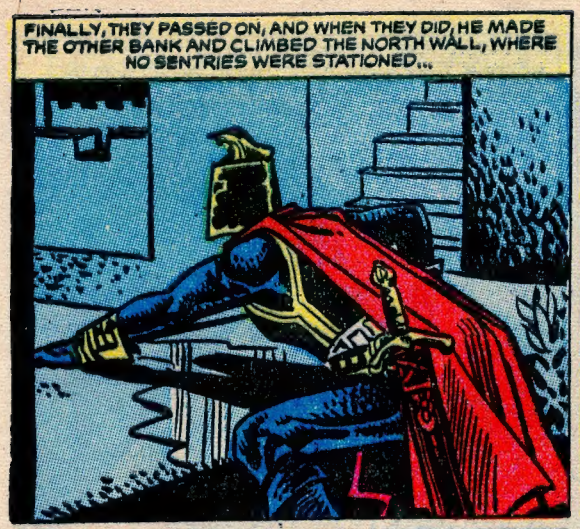

THE DRAWBRIDGE ASCENDED, AND AS IT SLANTED UPWARD THE FIGURE WEIGHTED IN BLACK ARMOR SLIPPED INTO THE DEEP MOAT!
BACK! PREPARE FOR SIEGE! BRING UP THE CATAPULT... LIGHT THE FLAMING ARROWS!

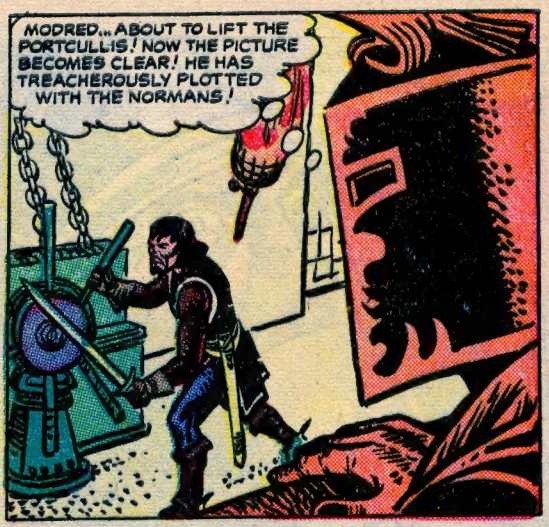

THE SHOCK OF CHILLED WATER PARTIALLY REVIVED THE BLACK KNIGHT! HE STRUGGLED AGAINST THE WEIGHT OF MAIL...


STILL ONLY HALF CONSCIOUS, WITH THE AID OF FLOATING VINES, HE PULLED HIMSELF TO THE EDGE OF THE MOAT AND, HIS HEAD EMERGED, WAITED, AS DARKNESS CAME TO THE LAND!
I WILL TARRY HERE UNTIL MY STRENGTH RETURNS AND IT IS FULL DARK, THEN ATTEMPT TO CROSS TO THE CASTLE!

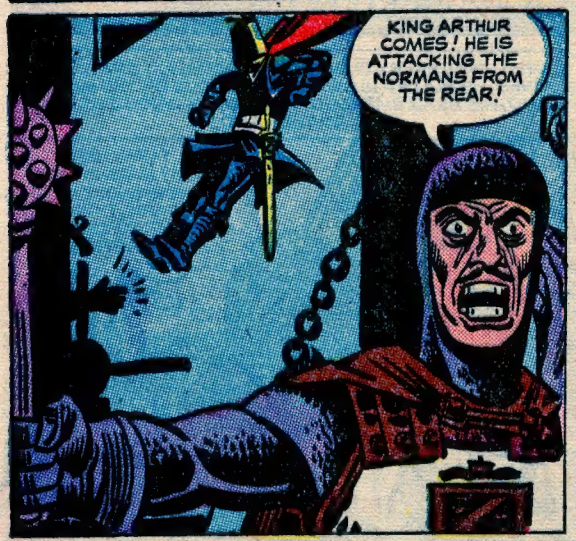
THEN ANOTHER DANGER CAME, FOR WITH THE DARKNESS, THE NORMANS BEGAN TO SEARCH THE EDGES OF THE MOAT FOR HIS BODY...
MODRED WILL WELL REWARD THE MAN WHO FINDS THE BLACK KNIGHT'S BODY, SO HE CAN BE SURE HE IS DEAD! SEARCH DILIGENTLY!
I MUST SUBMERGE AND STAY UNTIL THEY HAVE PASSED! THIS HOLLOW REED...

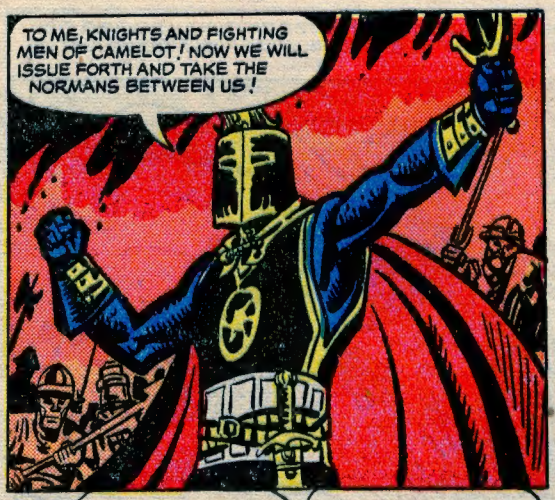
BREATHING THROUGH THE HOLLOW REED, HE SUBMERGED...
5


FINALLY, THEY PASSED ON, AND WHEN THEY DID, HE MADE THE OTHER BANK AND CLIMBED THE NORTH WALL, WHERE NO SENTRIES WERE STATIONED...

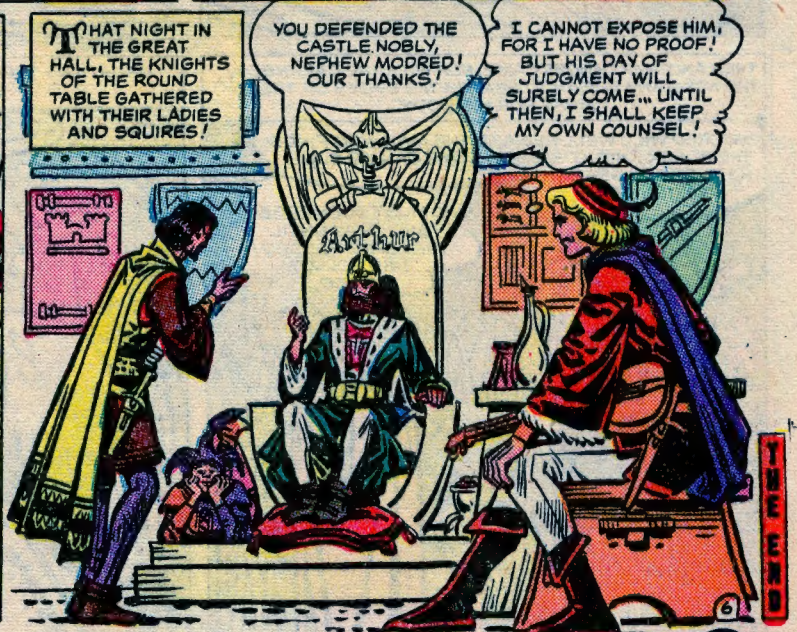


THE TREACHEROUS NEPHEW TO THE KING LAY STUNNED IN THE SHADOWS...





THE BATTLE WAS QUICK AND DECISIVE! THE NORMANS, CAUGHT BETWEEN THE MIGHTY MONARCH, ARTHUR AND THE BLACK KNIGHT, SOON YIELDED AND LIMPED AWAY!
HO, SIR KNIGHT, THY EBONY BLADE SINGS A SWEET SONG!
IT SINGS FOR YOU, MY LORD! PENDRAGON FOREVER!


THAT NIGHT IN THE GREAT HALL, THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE GATHERED WITH THEIR LADIES AND SQUIRES!
YOU DEFENDED THE CASTLE NOBLY, NEPHEW MODRED! OUR THANKS!
I CANNOT EXPOSE HIM, FOR I HAVE NO PROOF! BUT HIS DAY OF JUDGMENT WILL SURELY COME... UNTIL THEN, I SHALL KEEP MY OWN COUNSEL!
Arthur
THE END

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Home Sweet Home
Trust IN THE LORD
LET US LIVE TOGETHER AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER
THE LORD IS MY Shepherd
To Know How Sweet YOUR HOME MAY BE JUST GO AWAY BUT KEEP THE KEY
Have Faith IN God
God Bless OUR HOME
IN THIS HOUSE CHRIST IS KING
WHAT IS HOME WITHOUT A MOTHER

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NAME _____ AGE _____

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